

# INSIGHTS

Volume 5: Issue 10 November 2015

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

## Economic Indicators

### November 2015 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	157,301,000	2,261,406
Employed	149,364,000	2,137,493
Unemployed	7,937,000	123,913
Unemployed Rate	5.0%	5.5%

### Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,037.04	\$793.97
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	42.5
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$25.48	\$19.04

### Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	0.90%	3.01%
Columbia MSA	0.49%	3.07%
Sumter MSA	0.00%	0.00%
Florence MSA	-0.59%	0.24%

### Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2015	2014
U.S. Population Ratio	59.3%	59.2%
S.C. Population Ratio	55.8%	54.6%

### Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	Nov	Oct	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	62.5%	62.4%	0.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.0%	58.9%	0.1%

### United States Consumer Price Index

12-Month CPI	0.5%
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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Unemployment rate drops from 5.6 to 5.5 percent
- Unemployment rate is the lowest since August 2001
- Twelve-month employment growth sets record

View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment  
9,147



Unemployment  
-2,743



Unemployment  
Rate  
-0.1%



## Employment Gains Set New Over-The-Year Record

## Unemployment Rate Continues To Fall

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell for the sixth consecutive month, declining from 5.6 percent in October to 5.5 percent in November, a level not seen since August 2001.

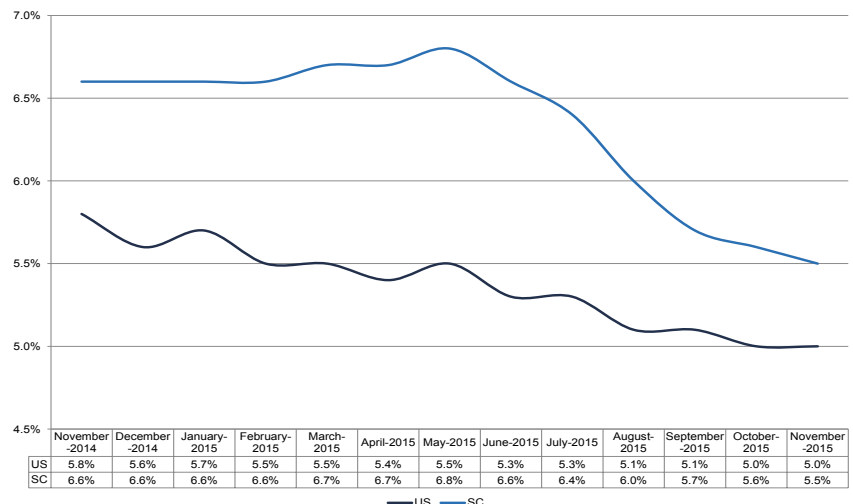
The number of people working in South Carolina climbed in November, increasing by 9,147 to a record level of 2,137,493. Over the past year, employment gains were estimated at 71,202 people, an all-time record increase for the state.

The number of unemployed individuals fell in November by 2,743 to 123,913. Since November 2014, the level of unemployed has declined by 22,664. The labor force expanded by 6,404 to 2,261,406 people. Since November 2014, the labor force has grown by 48,538.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5 percent over the month.

Economic indicators point to continued strong growth for the state moving forward into 2016.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and The United States  
November 2014 - November 2015



*Insights* is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2014 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email [bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov](mailto:bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov) or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

## State Unemployment Rates

New Mexico	6.8
District Of Columbia	6.6
Nevada	6.5
West Virginia	6.5
Alaska	6.4
Louisiana	6.3
Alabama	6.0
Arizona	6.0
Mississippi	6.0
California	5.7
Illinois	5.7
North Carolina	5.7
Oregon	5.7
Georgia	5.6
Tennessee	5.6
<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	<a href="#">5.5</a>
New Jersey	5.3
Washington	5.3
Maryland	5.2
Rhode Island	5.2
Connecticut	5.1
Delaware	5.1
Michigan	5.1
<a href="#">United States</a>	<a href="#">5.0</a>
Arkansas	5.0
Florida	5.0
Pennsylvania	5.0
Kentucky	4.9
New York	4.8
Massachusetts	4.7
Missouri	4.7
Texas	4.6
Ohio	4.5
Indiana	4.4
Oklahoma	4.2
Virginia	4.2
Wisconsin	4.2
Maine	4.1
Wyoming	4.1
Kansas	4.0
Montana	4.0
Idaho	3.9
Vermont	3.7
Colorado	3.6
Minnesota	3.5
Utah	3.5
Iowa	3.4
Hawaii	3.2
New Hampshire	3.2
South Dakota	3.0
Nebraska	2.9
North Dakota	2.7

## South Carolina Ranked 16th Highest of 51 in November

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS), North Dakota had the lowest jobless rate in November, 2.7 percent, followed by Nebraska, 2.9 percent. New Mexico had the highest rate, 6.8 percent. In total, 19 states had unemployment rates significantly lower than the U.S. figure of 5.0 percent, 11 states and the District of Columbia had measurably higher rates, and 20 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation. In November, South Carolina's jobless rate tied for 16th highest out of 51.

In November 2015, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia, decreased in 14 states, and was unchanged in Montana. The largest over-the-month increases in employment occurred in Florida (+35,200), Texas (+16,300), and Virginia (+14,400). The largest over-the-month decreases in employment occurred in Nevada (-6,700), Wisconsin (-4,800), and Pennsylvania (-3,400).

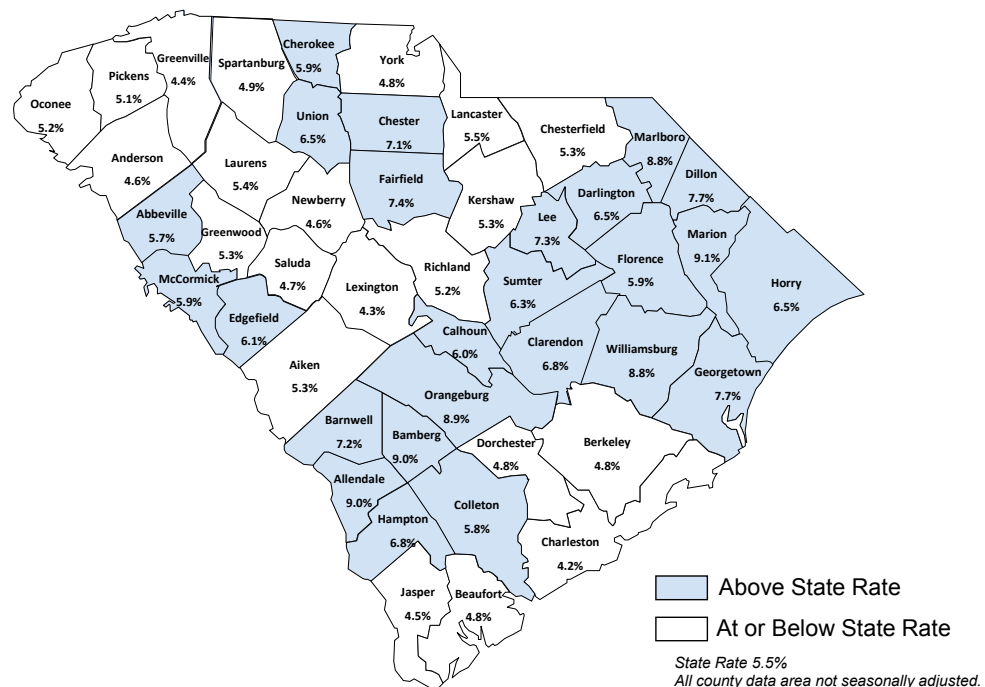
## November Unemployment Rate by County

In November 2015, not seasonally adjusted, county unemployment rates across the state were all lower with the exception of Horry County, which marked no change over the month. Rates ranged from 9.1 percent in Orangeburg County to 4.2 percent in Charleston County.

Since November 2014, unemployment rates have decreased in all 46 counties with Orangeburg (-3.3%), Bamberg (-3.1%) and Allendale (-3.0%) counties seeing the largest declines.

Over the year, Greenville and Charleston counties continued to set the mark for people finding work with approximately 6,900 people in each county obtaining employment. Richland (6,775), Lexington (4,900), and Spartanburg (4,600) counties have seen robust growth as well.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Marion	9.1%	Charleston	4.2%
Allendale	9.0%	Lexington	4.3%
Bamberg	9.0%	Greenville	4.4%
Orangeburg	8.9%	Jasper	4.5%
Marlboro	8.8%	Anderson	4.6%



## Employment Changes by County September 2015 through November 2015

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Sep 2015	Oct '15 - Nov '15	Sep '15 - Oct '15
Abbeville	10,113	10,144	10,059	-31	85
Aiken	69,709	69,884	69,829	-175	55
Allendale	2,655	2,685	2,704	-30	-19
Anderson	83,786	84,029	83,356	-243	673
Bamberg	5,140	5,180	5,190	-40	-10
Barnwell	8,240	8,281	8,265	-41	16
Beaufort	65,062	65,327	65,592	-265	-265
Berkeley	87,362	86,818	86,641	544	177
Calhoun	6,632	6,604	6,587	28	17
Charleston	187,213	186,157	185,616	1,056	541
Cherokee	22,543	22,576	22,416	-33	160
Chester	12,864	12,867	12,769	-3	98
Chesterfield	20,574	20,662	20,600	-88	62
Clarendon	12,307	12,392	12,390	-85	2
Colleton	16,289	16,328	16,253	-39	75
Darlington	27,579	27,526	27,613	53	-87
Dillon	11,757	11,840	11,880	-83	-40
Dorchester	67,748	67,341	67,209	407	132
Edgefield	10,086	10,137	10,164	-51	-27
Fairfield	9,516	9,466	9,432	50	34
Florence	60,313	60,105	60,057	208	48
Georgetown	24,055	24,230	24,302	-175	-72
Greenville	227,702	228,314	226,411	-612	1,903
Greenwood	30,488	30,602	30,420	-114	182
Hampton	7,902	7,973	8,033	-71	-60
Horry	124,589	126,035	128,914	-1,446	-2,879
Jasper	10,893	10,950	10,961	-57	-11
Kershaw	27,197	27,046	26,941	151	105
Lancaster	33,394	33,391	33,096	3	295
Laurens	28,781	28,884	28,675	-103	209
Lee	6,016	6,036	6,048	-20	-12
Lexington	136,783	135,924	135,194	859	730
McCormick	3,400	3,411	3,388	-11	23
Marion	11,800	11,862	11,900	-62	-38
Marlboro	9,196	9,239	9,201	-43	38
Newberry	17,999	18,090	18,133	-91	-43
Oconee	33,426	33,575	33,408	-149	167
Orangeburg	35,131	35,272	35,141	-141	131
Pickens	53,264	53,408	52,938	-144	470
Richland	186,995	185,589	184,377	1,406	1,212
Saluda	8,475	8,497	8,571	-22	-74
Spartanburg	131,953	131,623	130,649	330	974
Sumter	40,922	41,009	40,818	-87	191
Union	10,992	10,965	10,882	27	83
Williamsburg	12,085	12,142	12,130	-57	12
York	118,309	118,224	117,017	85	1,207

## South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for November - Seasonally Adjusted

In November 2015, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 5,600 over the month to reach the level of 2,024,900. Professional and Business Services led the month-over-month figures with a 1,800 job gain.

During November, additional development occurred in: Construction (+1,100); Education and Health Services (+1,100); Leisure and Hospitality (+900); Manufacturing (+800); Financial Activities (+500); and Government (+500). Meanwhile, industries reporting decreases were Information (-400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-300); and Other Services (-300).

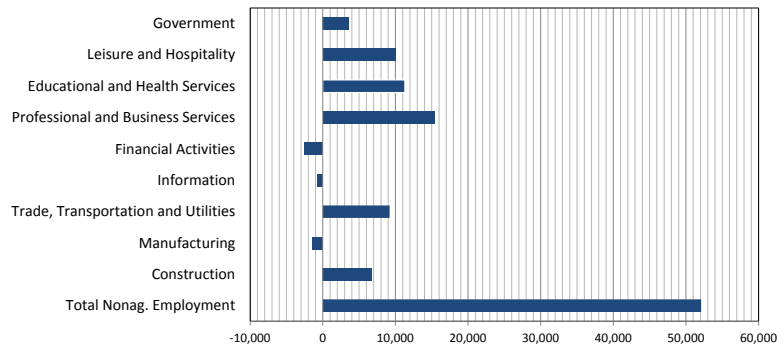
Over-the-year expansion in nonfarm employment was 52,100 with the largest escalations in Professional and Business Services (+15,400); Education and Health Services (+11,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+10,000); followed by Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+9,200); Construction (+6,800); Government (+3,600); and Other Services (+800). Industries reporting losses were Financial Activities (-2,500); Manufacturing (-1,500); and Information (-800).

Metropolitan Statistical Areas seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment saw steady growth over the month. The largest increase was seen in Charleston (+3,000) as Columbia trailed with (+1,900). Sumter remained flat, while Florence saw a slight downfall of (-500).

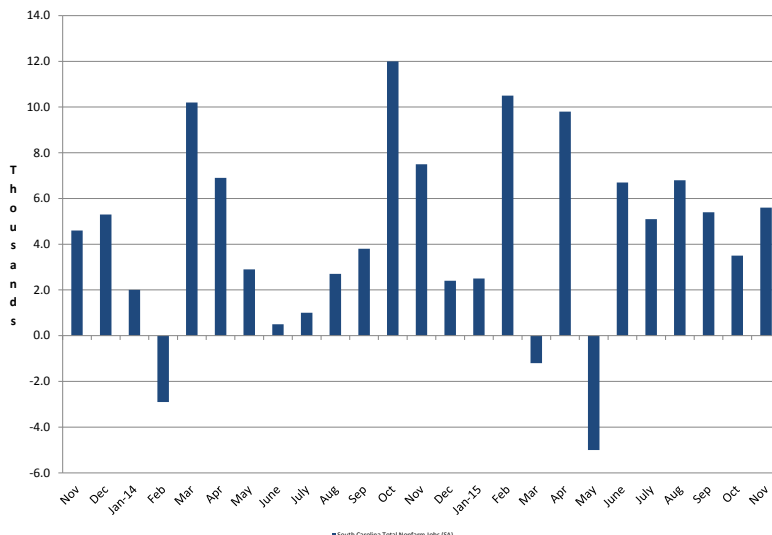
There were no declines in the Metropolitan Statistical Areas seasonally adjusted, payroll employment over the year. Notable growth was reported in Columbia (+11,500), followed by Charleston (+9,800), and Florence (+200), while Sumter employment remained steady.

As a result of the new MSA redefinition, there are only four South Carolina MSAs publishable under nonfarm, seasonally adjusted employment. MSAs are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and are the result of the latest published standards from Census Bureau data. (The standards for defining the areas are reviewed and revised once every 10 years prior to each decennial census). Therefore, with the

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry  
November 2014 - November 2015 (SA)**



**SC Total Nonfarm Jobs  
2013 -2015**



release of the 2014 benchmark, Current Employment Survey (CES) will incorporate the updates to area definitions based on the new standards from the 2010 Census. As a result of the new standards, breaks have been created in the time series for these areas, and the BLS will be unable to publish all of the redefined areas on a seasonally adjusted basis. The South Carolina areas based on the 2010 standards and Census Bureau data were defined in April 2013.

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to

[www.SCWorkforceInfo.com](http://www.SCWorkforceInfo.com)

(Employment and Wage Data section)

## South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Rebounds

After dropping for two consecutive months, the South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) bounced back and ended November at 101.11, gaining 0.1 percent. A nearly 17 percent decrease of the S.C. Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims was the leading factor of SCESTI's advance this month. The Conference Board's S.C. Help Wanted Online® Ads and the S.C. Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours also saw improvements for the month, rising 6.62 percent and 0.97 percent, respectively. The Conference Board's U.S. Consumer Confidence Index and the Conference Board's U.S. Employment Trends Index lost ground, declining 8.78 percent and 0.82 percent, respectively, for the month.

Compared with 12 months ago, SCESTI, along with three of the five index components, managed improvements, while two components failed to perform well. Contributing to SCESTI's 0.28 percent jump for this time period were a 13.81 percent climb of the Conference Board's S.C. Help Wanted Online® Ads, a 1.9 percent increase of the Conference Board's U.S. Employment Trends Index, and an almost two percent decrease of the S.C. Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims. The S.C. Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours and the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index failed to perform well, losing 1.42 percent and 0.66 percent of their values, respectively.

November turned out to be a good month for SCESTI. Just as anticipated, SCESTI turned upward after the previous two month's losses, recouping most of the lost ground. Also, following the month that SCESTI fell below its 12-month moving average for the first time since August 2011, SCESTI rose above it this month, assuring a healthy economic and employment situation for the Palmetto State for the upcoming three to six months.

### South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index





## Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

South Carolina's Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry sector comprised 22 percent of the total nonfarm workforce in 2014. This is due to the high-tech jobs which represent an essential portion of the economic growth in South Carolina. The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector includes establishments that specialize in performing professional, scientific and technical activities for others. These activities require a high degree of expertise and training. A number of activities performed include: architectural, engineering and specialized design services; computer services; consulting services; research services; advertising services; photographic services and other professional, scientific and technical services.

### Employment Trends

Establishments and employment for the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry as of 2014 were 14,867 and 86,514, respectively. During 1st Quarter 2015, there were 89,431 employees and a total of 15,170 establishments. The long-term industry employment projections for Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services in 2012 were estimated at 79,490. The employment projection for 2022 stands at 97,807, an annual average employment growth of 1,831 (23 percent).

There were 5,089 job openings advertised online for Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services in South Carolina in November 2015. The top advertised tools and technologies found in job openings advertised online in South Carolina in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry in December 2015 are Platform Lift, PowerPoint, Linux, JavaScript, UNIX, Windows Server, jQuery, ICIMS, Microsoft Word and Smartphones.

Technology is a significant part of South Carolina's economy. The economic influence of those employed in professional and technical careers is essential and is continuing to see growth each year. Furthermore, technology particularly impacts every industry and business in South Carolina; for that reason, in order to grow and recruit new businesses, it is necessary to foster a culture of talent with backgrounds in science, technology and engineering.

### Leading Indicator

Since 2012, more than \$823 million have been invested in companies in the high-tech and information service industries in addition to more than 5,500 jobs announced in South Carolina.

### Outlook

In the wake of the recession, job growth has been strong in the high-paying industry of Professional, Scientific and Technical Services – a category that includes accountants, lawyers, software developers and engineers. To support innovation and the manufacturing of rapidly changing products, growth will continue in information technology that utilize advanced tools for product design and creation, like software solutions, service integration, 3D printing, and the utilization of big data.

Businesses' growing need of consulting services to keep pace with the latest technology, government regulations and management and production techniques are expected to also drive demand for workers in this industry. Among these jobs, some of the fastest growing includes software developers, computer systems analysts and translation and interpretation services. Overall, employment in the Professional and Business Services sector is projected to grow at a rate of 1.8 percent annually and increase by \$899.5 billion to reach a new level of more than \$3.3 trillion in 2022, according to "Economic Outlook 2015 and Beyond" by Laura Childers & George Christian.

Employees are always in high demand, and employers are looking for job-specific skills from job-seekers that is equivalent to the skills necessary to perform a particular job. The average weekly wage for Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services subsector is \$1,192 with an average annual salary of \$61,984. Employers will require critical employability skills with no less than essential comprehension of fact-finding and scientific principles, critical thinking aptitudes, as well as extensive computer and software programming training.